

From: Jim Hanke
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 2:35pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

To whom it may concern,

There are a few vocal anti-Microsoft groups that are the key players in the whole controversy.

If we could turn back the hands of time.

Back to before Microsoft, before IBM and a young kid named Bill Gates started talking in 1974, how would this world be?

There are a hundred thousand companies of various sizes that would not even exist. Our world would be very different.

We take things for granted that we have in our lives.

Things we can't live without now.

All of these would either not exist or would be so large they would not be practical. The advent of the home PC drove the market to make faster CPU's and faster RAM and smaller components. These components are used in everything in our lives today.

Cell phones, microwaves, Digital TV, DVD players for our TV's, all the nifty electronics in our cars; all of this because the personal computer was a technology so many people loved.

Microsoft made the PC practical. We should thank Microsoft for helping make us all more productive and creating secondary and tertiary companies. Most all of these companies are happy to have Microsoft be the driving force behind the advances in the PC industry.

Yes, there are a few folks out there that are anti-Microsoft. They are very vocal. The silent majority are going to be the ones that really end up paying the price.

I feel Microsoft has learned a lesson about how it markets its products.

Microsoft has spent a lot of money and time defending itself and I believe their marketing strategy has changed significantly.

Make sure Microsoft keeps the market open as you have already.

Stop spending billions of dollars to fight Microsoft. There are a lot of other places our tax dollars, yours and mine, can be better spent.

Use the money to buy computers for schools. Teach them Unix if you like.

Spend money on child welfare, better schools, anti-drug campaigns, stop smoking campaigns, fix our roads, improve airport security, the list is endless. With the money you could save by just accepting the proposal by Microsoft that is currently in process (I don't know what it is, but I am sure it is reasonable at this point) you could give every person that died in the World Trade Center tragedy thousands and thousands of dollars.

Find a better way to spend our tax dollars and your time than fighting an entrepreneur that has done more for this country than anyone since Henry Ford.

Thank you for reading and taking time to take my letter to heart.

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